

people and make a positive difference every day that we can.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BILL HUGHES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I also wish my friend from New Mexico well in the next phase of his life. I thank him for his service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a bittersweet announcement, and that is to say thank you to a member of my staff who has given 31 years of his life to this great institution. I am talking about Bill Hughes.

Bill Hughes has decided to retire at the end of the 116th Congress. More than one person has remarked over the years that Bill Hughes comes with the building. Bill has been my policy director since I became the Republican whip in 2014. He was my very first hire in that office. But his career was already legendary when I asked him to unretire and to join the whip team.

Bill's career embodies the American Dream. He grew up in South Dakota. He didn't have connections in Washington. He just had a dream. He was drawn to public service, and his breaks came through hard work. He became an expert on the Federal budget and the legislative process.

For 31 years, Bill has been part of some of the biggest policy debates, legislative achievements, and history-making events of our time. He retires still doing what he dreamed about doing as a young kid growing up in rural South Dakota.

Bill has served as policy director for a Speaker of this House. He served as staff director for a committee, as Chief of Staff for a Senator, and a staff director for the Senate Republican Policy Committee.

He began his career at OMB under David Stockman back in the Reagan administration.

When I hired Bill, I hired the institutional memory of this place dating all the way back to the 98th Congress. He has an encyclopedic memory of budget accounts, past appropriations battles, Senate procedures, and, yes, also the history of American music. You can imagine some of those conversations that we have had through some of the battles we have had up here.

His colleagues respect and admire him; and more than one generation of staffers have sought his advice, guidance, and mentorship.

We have all been involved in dropping a bill right over there on the House floor, but very few of us have dropped a bill the way that Bill Hughes has.

One day, when he was working for the legendary Bud Shuster, Bill came running down to the floor with a 1,700-page infrastructure bill to get it introduced so it could get voted on, and he literally dropped the bill on the floor.

It took some time to put it back together and, of course, with Bill's attention to detail, he made sure that every page was back in the right place. But he never once "dropped" a bill for me.

Bill is a consummate staffer and a humble public servant. He works endless hours to ensure that I have the best information and the most important facts about key legislation. He never made himself part of the story. He is that kind of person who deflects attention and credit.

In doing so, Bill Hughes has earned the confidence, not only of me, but of all the leaders that he has worked with. Speaker Boehner, Speaker Ryan, Leader MCCARTHY all have sought Bill's advice and counsel during his tenure as my policy director in the whip office.

I am sad to have to say good-bye to Bill. We will miss the House Republicans' "Senate whisperer," as we refer to him. But very few have earned the thanks and best wishes that Bill leaves this institution with.

Bill stands out among his peers and colleagues. He came to Washington nearly 40 years ago with a servant's heart. He came here for a career in public service, and he leaves the House with more than 33 years of legislative and executive branch experience. It is truly a remarkable run.

Bill is retiring to spend more time with his wife and kids and the greener pastures of his cabin in the mountains. If Bill wanted to continue to work, it would be right here in the House that he loves, and the House that will be forever indebted to his sacrifice, his wisdom, and his great love for the United States of America.

Bill, we were lucky to work with you, and America is a richer Nation thanks to your service. You will be deeply missed here, but you have more than earned the opportunity to enjoy this next chapter in your already rich life.

Thank you to Bill Hughes, and God bless you.

FAREWELL TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise with honor to address this Chamber one last time. And I say "with honor," because it has been truly that to serve the people of South Carolina's First Congressional District. I want to thank them for that opportunity, particularly because, by most accounts, I never should have been here in the first place.

I was reminded of that over the Thanksgiving holiday as I walked on the beach on Sullivan's Island with my 2-year-old son, Boone. We were out there searching for a sandcastle that he had built the day before, but I knew it had been washed away by the tides.

I thought about the slim chances I had of making it here back in 2018. And

then my defeat 2 years later. It became apparent that political victories and losses are as transient and vulnerable as my son's sandcastle on the beach. Especially in a district like ours, a Democrat in a ruby red and gerrymandered district that President Trump carried by 13 points back in 2016, one that had not been served by a Democrat in my lifetime.

But we made it here by promising something different, by promising to work with one another, reach across the aisle, listen to those we may not agree with, and get things done.

Washington, D.C., was rife with partisanship and chaos. However, I didn't arrive 2 years ago to simply complain; I came to roll up my sleeves and be part of the solution. Or, as the old adage goes, I did not come to curse the darkness, but to light a candle.

But it wasn't just about talk; it was about action. We said we would work across the aisle, and I was ranked the fourth most bipartisan Member in Congress.

I said I would work with anyone to get things done, and President Trump signed two of my bills into law.

I promised to protect our beautiful shorelines in South Carolina, and we passed my bipartisan bill that did exactly that.

We showed that working together can manifest remarkable results, all of which was made possible by the dedication of my incredible staff and with the love and support of my family.

Sadly though, here in Washington, D.C., bipartisanship and civility seem to be the exception and not the rule. In my short tenure, I have been disappointed with a lot that I have encountered.

I have seen Members consistently put their party ahead of their own people; embracing conspiracy theories or arguments detached from reality while knowing better and, sometimes, admitting so privately.

I have seen Members mock the President behind his back and praise him to his face; loathe him in private and worship him on television.

I have seen them intentionally spread misinformation and lies, flirt with white supremacists, and pander to the most extreme voices in our society.

And it has been for one reason and one reason alone: self-preservation; people more interested in protecting themselves and their party than protecting our country; more interested in keeping their job than doing their job.

Such reckless and selfish behavior has created a system where most politicians can't lose and most Americans can't win. And when it is time to tackle the greatest challenges before us, our leaders cannot even agree on the problems, let alone the solutions.

Today's elected leaders bear a tremendous responsibility to be the custodians of our young and fragile democracy. And make no mistake, our democracy has been battered and bruised, but it is not yet broken. And

to save it, we must agree on one basic truth: that the other side is not the enemy. The enemy is the stubbornness of our own biases.

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The enemy is a political system that seeks to divide us for sport. Let's fight that and not each other. Our country is facing some serious issues right now, and our country will be much better served if Democrats and Republicans can come together.

My grandfather always told me that you can get through about any problem if you actually sit down with somebody and have a beer together. I have been trying to work with people since the first day I got here. I won't ever stop reaching across the aisle or trying to work with one another or sitting down and having a beer and listening to each other.

For the betterment of this country, we have to come together. We have to sit down, listen to each other, and maybe even have a beer.

In the spirit of bipartisanship and cooperation, I raise this glass to my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans.

WARNINGS FROM BIPARTISAN COMMISSION ON FEDERAL ELECTION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, this is my eighth speech in a series on voter fraud, election theft, and the Presidential election.

There are three major flaws in America's elections that socialist Democrats exploit to steal elections.

First, voting by illegal aliens and other noncitizens is rampant because socialist Democrats made it illegal to require proof of citizenship when illegal aliens and other noncitizens demand to be registered to vote. In 2020, hundreds of thousands, and more likely millions, of illegal aliens and other noncitizens legally voted for Joe Biden after he promised them amnesty and citizenship if he is elected President.

Second, vote-by-mail schemes are both horribly prone to voter fraud and are illegal because they violate Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution and Congress' ensuing designation, with minor exceptions, of one 24-hour day as the election day during which citizens can vote. Yet, in 2020, socialist Democrats foisted vote-by-mail schemes on America in order to more easily engage in voter fraud and election theft.

Third, the lack of photo ID requirements makes it easier for paid socialist Democrat election thieves to steal elections with voter impersonators. While socialist Democrats and the fake news media repeatedly and falsely claim there was no voter fraud in 2020, what is most startling is this: America was warned 15 years ago that this would happen.

In 2005, a bipartisan Commission on Federal Election Reform co-chaired by Democrat President Jimmy Carter and Reagan White House Chief of Staff James Baker issued a 105-page report specifically warning about the very same systemic flaws the socialist Democrats used in 2020 to steal elections. The commission report warns: "Elections are the heart of democracy. If elections are defective, the entire democratic system is at risk."

Concerning noncitizen voting, the commission warned of a growing non-citizen voting threat, citing 784 noncitizen votes in a contested California congressional race. The commission recommended that "all States should use their best efforts to obtain proof of citizenship before registering voters."

Of course, that means repealing the socialist Democrat law that makes it illegal for voter registrars to require proof of citizenship when illegal aliens and other noncitizens demand to be registered to vote.

Concerning vote-by-mail schemes, the commission warned that vote by mail is "likely to increase the risks of fraud and of contested elections," adding that it remains "the largest source of potential voter fraud" because it is "vulnerable to abuse in several ways. Blank ballots mailed to the wrong address or to large residential buildings might get intercepted. . . . Vote buying schemes are far more difficult to detect when citizens vote by mail."

The commission recommended minimizing voting by mail.

On voter ID, the commission warned that the lack of photo ID opens the door to voter fraud and strongly recommended a photo ID requirement for voters, noting that "photo IDs currently are needed to board a plane, enter Federal buildings, and cash a check. Voting is equally important," and that "voters in nearly 100 democracies use a photo identification card without fear of infringement on their rights."

The commission recommended that "citizens should identify themselves as the correct person on the registration list when they vote." The problem "is not the magnitude of the fraud. In close or disputed elections, and there are many, a small amount of fraud could make the margin of difference."

How prophetic.

Mr. Speaker, America's republic is only as good as its election system. On January 6, 2021, I have a choice. I can ignore truth, surrender to socialism, and accept electoral college submissions from States with election systems so badly flawed as to render their vote submissions unreliable, untrustworthy, and unworthy of acceptance. Or I can fight for America and move to reject them.

I can't speak for anyone else, but as for me, MO BROOKS from Alabama's Fifth Congressional District, I choose to fight for America.

HONORING VICKI WAGNER MANSFIELD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and the ray of light that was Vicki Wagner Mansfield, a resident of Troy, Michigan, who passed away last month after a 2-year battle with brain cancer.

Vicki, simply put, was a pillar of our community, known and beloved by many. She was raised in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, and she moved to Troy with her husband, Bruce, in 1985 to raise their family.

Her memory is carried forward by her beloved Bruce; her two amazing daughters, Abbey and Rachel; and her delightful grandson, Hank.

Vicki was known as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, friend, and aunt. She is celebrated in our community for her artistic creativity, that forthrightness, her fierce loyalty, and the contributions that she made as an active volunteer in our community.

Vicki was a mother's mother. She was active in PTA, school events, and political activities, always with the goal of: How do I make this world a better place?

So many former students through the Birmingham school system have stood up to say how much Vicki meant to them, how involved she was as a parent with the Girl Scouts or in a play that she did. It was always because she cared about the outcomes of their lives.

Vicki took the time in some of the remaining days that she had to message me to say—not with a complaint or with a question—how much she cared about the work that we do in the Congress, to pass along to those who are in elected office a note of gratitude and thanks to say keep going, keep giving it all you can.

That is certainly something that Vicki did every day of her life.

Her passing is also a stark reminder of our work ahead to improve the research and treatment of cancer in this country. Glioblastoma is a common and aggressive brain cancer with an unfortunately high mortality rate. A strong Federal investment is essential to improve our understanding and care of this tragic disease and for the providers like those at the Henry Ford Medical Center and what they rely on for good research.

I carry Vicki's light like a torch in the fight for increased funding for cancer research. As we inch toward this deadline to fund our government, I continue to urge and work with my colleagues to join me in supporting robust brain cancer research funding at the NIH and DOD to continue this life-saving work. We cannot let those suffering from brain cancer and their families fail.